

Claims

1. (Currently amended) An isolated microorganism strain of ~~*Lactobacillus salivarius*~~ selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13, *Lactobacillus salivarius* Salm-9, *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-18 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-41 ~~Salm-9, List40-18 and List40-41~~.

Claims 2-6 Canceled

7. (Original) A composition comprising a defined competitive exclusion formulation and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said defined competitive exclusion formulation comprises an isolated microorganism strain selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13, *Lactobacillus salivarius* Salm-9, *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-18 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-41.

8. (Original) The composition of claim 7 wherein said defined competitive exclusion formulation comprises the isolated microorganism strain *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13 and an isolated microorganism *Lactobacillus salivarius* strain selected from the group consisting of Salm-9, List40-18 and List40-41.

9. (Currently amended) ~~A The composition comprising a defined competitive exclusion formulation and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, of claim 7 wherein~~ said defined competitive exclusion formulation ~~comprising~~ comprises isolated microorganism strains *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-41.

10. (Original) The defined competitive exclusion formulation of claim 9 further comprising isolated microorganism strains *Lactobacillus salivarius* Salm-9 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-18.

11. (Currently amended) The composition of ~~any of claims 7-10~~ claim 10 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises water.

12. (Currently amended) The composition of ~~any of claims 7-10~~ claim 10 formed as feed for poultry.

13. (Currently amended) The composition of ~~any of claims 7-10~~ claim 10 in the form of a frozen or lyophilized powder.

14. (Original) A method for inhibiting enteropathogenic colonization of poultry, said method comprising the steps of administering to said poultry a defined competitive exclusion formulation comprising an isolated microorganism strain selected from the group

consisting of *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13, *Lactobacillus salivarius* Salm-9, *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-18 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-41.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the defined competitive exclusion formulation comprises an isolated microorganism strain *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13 and an isolated microorganism *Lactobacillus salivarius* strain selected from the group consisting of Salm-9, List40-18 and List40-41.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the defined competitive exclusion composition comprises *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13, *Lactobacillus salivarius* Salm-9, *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-18 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-41.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the enteropathogen is selected from the group consisting of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*.

18. Canceled.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~14~~ or 16 wherein the competitive exclusion composition is administered orally.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the competitive exclusion composition is administered in combination with feed for said poultry.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the competitive exclusion composition is administered in the drinking water for said poultry.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~19-16~~ wherein the competitive exclusion composition is administered by spraying the formulation directly on the poultry.

23. (Currently amended) The method of any of claims ~~19-22~~ 16 wherein the composition is administered to newborn chicks, ranging in age from about 1 to about 4 days post hatching.

24. Canceled.

25. (Original) A method of inhibiting the growth of an enteropathogenic bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*, said method comprising the step of contacting the enteropathogen with a defined bacterial composition comprising an isolated bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13, *Lactobacillus salivarius* Salm-9, *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-18 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-41, or a product produced by said bacteria.

26. (Original) A method for reducing levels of enteropathogenic bacteria, selected from the group consisting of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*, in poultry, said method

comprising the step of contacting the enteropathogen with a composition comprising an isolated bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13, *Lactobacillus salivarius* Salm-9, *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-18 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* List40-41, or a product produced by said bacteria, in an amount effective to reduce said enteropathogenic bacteria levels.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the said composition comprises an isolated microorganism strain *Streptococcus cristatus* List40-13 and an isolated microorganism *Lactobacillus salivarius* strain selected from the group consisting of Salm-9, List40-18 and List40-41.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the competitive exclusion composition is administered in combination with feed for said poultry.

30. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the competitive exclusion composition is administered in the drinking water for said poultry.